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Customer No. 31013

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PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenichi IGA et al. Group Art Unit: 2882
Serial No.: 09/717,733 Examiner: Chih-Cheng Glen Kao
Filed: November 21, 2000
For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL FIBER
SPLICING**

February 11, 2004

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED AUGUST 12, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 12, 2003 in the above-referenced patent application. This Response is being submitted within the third month after the shortened statutory period set for response in the Office Action. A separate Petition and Fee for a three month extension of time are being submitted herewith. With the extension, the deadline for response is reset to expire on February 12, 2004.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dawn Samraan

(Typed or Printed Name)

Dawn Samraan

(Signature)

2-11-04

(Date of Signature)

AMENDMENTS

Amend the application, without prejudice, as follows.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this Response.